

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-21 are pending, in which claims 1, 11 and 20 are currently amended, and claim 21 is newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed August 8, 2006 rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Golani et al.* (US Pub. No. 20040260590). Claims 1-10 and 20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to the § 101 rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 and believe such rejection is overcome.

With respect to the anticipation rejection, independent claim 1 recites “**an event router component** configured to receive status transition events for said nodes and **dispatching said events to said conductor and distributed services agents components.**”

To satisfy the above features, the Office Action simply refers to Fig. 1, element 32 of the *Golani et al.* reference. Applicants' careful study of the *Golani et al.* system reveals that the element 32 is a workflow server that has no event routing capability. For example, *Golani et al.* describes, within paragraphs [0042]-[0044], the operation of the workflow server 32 as follows (Emphasis Added):

[0042] Each of workstations 22, 24, . . . , 30 reports each step or transaction it performs to a workflow server 32. For each execution of the process, **server 32 records these events**, along with their times of occurrence, in a process log (also known as a process audit log or a workflow log) in a memory 34. In fact, each of the functions of workstations 22, 24, . . . , 30 may be viewed and recorded as a process in itself, with its own process log. For example, the process of receiving and servicing a customer order may be logged and modeled, as described below, independently of the other steps in the production process shown in FIG. 1. Larger business processes may be modeled as a hierarchy of smaller, component processes. These general aspects of workflow modeling and management are described further in the above-mentioned article by Georgakopoulos et al.

[0043] **For each of the activities reported by workstations 22, 24, . . . , 30, the process logs generated by server 32 contain records of key events associated with the activity, such as ready, started, restarted, ended normally, force**

finished and aborted (failed). Process logging of this sort is defined, for example, in the MQWorkflow Audit specified by the Workflow Management Coalition in "Interface 5--Audit Data Specification" (Technical Report WFMC-TC-1015, issue 1.1, Lighthouse Point, Fla., 2002), which is incorporated herein by reference. Each record in the log contains additional data, such as the time, process name, process ID (which includes an instance ID, identifying the execution), activity name, activity ID, and user ID.

[0044] A log processor 36 reads the process logs from memory 34 and uses these logs to build process model graphs, as described in detail hereinbelow. Typically, processor 36 comprises a general-purpose computer workstation, which is programmed in software to carry out these modeling functions. Alternatively, **server 32 or substantially any other workstation in the enterprise may be programmed to serve as the log processor.** The software for this purpose may be downloaded to the log processor in electronic form, over a network, for example, or it may alternatively be provided on tangible media, such as CD-ROM.

At best, the workflow server 32 acts as a log processor without any mention of a capability to "dispatch" anything, much less in the manner claimed: **"dispatching said events to said conductor and distributed services agents components."** Consistent with this lack of disclosure, *Golani et al.* is silent on the claimed conductor and the claimed distributed services agents components.

The Examiner is reminded that 35 U.S.C. § 132 requires the Director to "notify the applicant thereof, stating the reasons for such rejection." This section is violated if the rejection "is so uninformative that it prevents the applicant from recognizing and seeking to counter the grounds for rejection." *Chester v. Miller*, 15 USPQ2d 1333 (Fed. Cir. 1990). This policy is captured in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. For example, MPEP § 706 states that "[t]he goal of examination is to clearly articulate any rejection early in the prosecution process so that applicant has the opportunity to provide evidence of patentability and otherwise respond completely at the earliest opportunity." Furthermore, MPEP § 706.02(j) indicates that: "[i]t is important for an examiner to properly communicate the basis for a rejection so that the issues can be identified early and the applicant can be given fair opportunity to respond." Unfortunately,

the Examiner's only discussion of the claimed event router is a vague reference to a workflow server 32 of FIG. 1.

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, based on the foregoing, it is clear that *Golani et al.* fails to anticipate independent claim 1, and claims 2-10 depending therefrom.

Regarding independent claim 11, Applicants have amended this claim in the interest of advancing prosecution. Amended claim 11 now recites "wherein the data management systems are heterogeneous systems." By contrast, the workstations 22, 24, . . . , 30 within the *Golani et al.* system are not heterogeneous systems, as they are a part of the same system 20 (FIG. 1). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 and corresponding dependent claims 12-20.

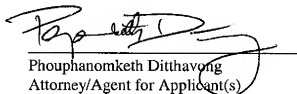
Turning now to new claim 21, this claim is directed to a method of data processing and recites "receiving information, corresponding to a process, from a **plurality of heterogeneous data platforms**; and providing a **sense-and-response framework** to process the received information, wherein the framework **receives events in the process and initiates a plurality of heterogeneous tasks** in response to the events, wherein the tasks are executed until the process reaches an endpoint." Applicants submit that the art of record provides no such disclosure.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & MORI, P.C.

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Date


Phouphanomketh Ditthavong
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 44658

10507 Braddock Road
Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22032
Tel. (703) 425-8508
Fax. (703) 425-8518